



# SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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## Public Accountability Needed for LAUSD

Los Angeles Unified School District sprawls across 27 cities and is supposed to educate 727,000 children. Because of its overwhelming size, the school district is immune to public accountability. The result is inefficiencies, wasted resources, and resistance to improving education through more charter schools. Its newest push is to spend even more money on promoting itself in order to "educate the public" about all the good that the school district is doing for our kids. Apparently, they do not believe their current \$860,000 communications budget is adequate for the district's public relations.

This desire to spend money on more public relations is a perfect example of how out-of-touch the school board is to the communities and families who send their children to LA schools. If there was true public accountability there would be no need for public relations as the community would be involved and the district would be responsive to the parents in the school district. Instead, LAUSD needs more money than its nearly million dollar public relations budget to tell parents how great the school district is regardless of the reality of the problems plaguing LA schools.

It is great to know that Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa does not want to defend the status quo. However, the proposal of taking away the people's right to vote for the Los Angeles Unified School District's school board members and to give that power to the Mayor of Los Angeles creates even less accountability.

I strongly agree that the status quo is fundamentally flawed. We need significant change to improve our schools in LAUSD. This school district is too large and is unaccountable to the many communities it affects. The answer is to give communities and families more power not less.

This proposal to allow the mayor to appoint school board members further removes the people's power to demand accountability and leaves the school district just as large and inefficient as it was before.

The solution is to give back to the people their right to hold their school district accountable by

### News of the Week

[Governor Announces New Chief of Staff](#)

[Dan Walters Column: Schwarzenegger Switched Advisors, But Did He Switch Directions?](#)

[Acting Prison Warden Forced Out of Position](#)

[Valley is More Supportive of Parental Rights](#)

[AV High School District Donates Texts and Computers to School in Mississippi That Was Victim of Hurricane](#)

[Legislature Looks Into UC Pay Practices](#)

[Debra Saunders Column: Tookie Tales](#)

[Riverside Press Enterprise: Pricey Preschool Proposal](#)

breaking up LAUSD into community-based school districts. Families and communities can get more involved in smaller school districts and truly have a voice in holding the local community school board accountable for its actions and results. Smaller school districts will provide parents with a stronger voice in their child's education.

The key to providing true accountability is not to take away the people's power to vote, it is to give the people real power to make change. It is important to stop this idea of consolidating power in the hands of one politician and give more power to the parents of the children attending LA schools.

Breaking up LAUSD would be a big step in the right direction to solving many of the problems the district currently faces.

**If you would like to contact Senator Runner, please click  
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